

[25th August 1926]

Administration Reports.*Administration reports of departments under the hon. the Home Member.*

* 2279 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to specify—

(a) the various reports of the administration of the departments under his control published by Government;

(b) in which months the several reports for the years 1921–22, 1922–23, 1924–25, or for 1922, 1923 and 1924 (according to the financial or calendar year) were published;

(c) what the causes there were for the delay, if any of them were published more than six months after the year of report;

(d) whether attempts have been made to publish the several reports for the previous year at least a month before the budget estimates are placed before the Council; and

(e) what steps are being taken to ensure earlier publication of the reports?

A.—(a) & (b) A statement * is appended.

(c), (d) & (e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 2316.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—“With reference to the answer drawing my attention to question No. 2316, may I enquire whether it is not possible for Government to publish reports of major departments so that they may be placed before the public before the budget discussion?”

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“Order, order. That is a suggestion for action, and not a question for information.”

Forests.*Enhanced rate of permits for grass, etc., in Udamalpet taluk.*

* 2280 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the forest contractors in Udamalpet taluk issue now permits for headloads of grass and bamboo at one anna and four annas respectively while the previous rates were three pies and one anna and, if so, why and under whose authority the enhanced rates are being collected?

A.—The permit fee for headloads of grass was raised from 3 pies to 6 pies in 1920–21 and to one anna in 1923–24. The permit fee for headloads of bamboos was raised from 1 anna to 2 annas in 1915–16 and to 4 annas in 1922–23. These increases were due to increased demand and were made by the contractors under the authority of the agreements executed by them.

Forest exploitation by firms or companies.

* 2281 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many companies or firms there are in the Presidency, which have applied for permission to undertake forest exploitation;